

Family, friends, and travel are the great joys of Harry's life. He has been a philanthropist for various organization and communities, such as St. Mary Annenian Church in Yettem. Harry takes pride in being a strong community leader and godfather to Sharon, Karon, Aron, Michael, Debra, and Kevin. Throughout the many roads he has traveled here and abroad we thank him for the many lives he has touched along the way. It is for these reasons that we join Harry Davidian's family and friends in wishing him a blessed 80th birthday and continued health and happiness in the years to come.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND  
IDEALS HIGHLIGHTED THROUGH  
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

SPEECH OF

**HON. RAHM EMANUEL**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 20, 2007*

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 293, a resolution supporting the goals and ideals of National Volunteer Week. This bill recognizes the beneficial effects of volunteerism in our Nation, and thanks the millions of individuals who have generously donated their time for charitable efforts.

Volunteerism is a hallmark of a civil and compassionate society, and since 1974, National Volunteer Week has consistently encouraged and supported the charitable and selfless contributions of America's volunteers. From the men and women feeding the hungry at the Chicago Food Depository to the volunteers that master information about Chicago's museums and cultural institutions, these individuals deserve our thanks for all of their hard work.

Last year alone, over 61 million Americans offered their time and effort to volunteer in a myriad of ways. These individuals recognized the vital importance of lending a helping hand to beneficent causes and donated their time and efforts in order to make a difference in their communities.

The striking importance of volunteerism was highlighted in the recovery efforts following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in the Gulf Coast. The communal effort extended after these disasters exemplified the American spirit of fellowship and altruism, and provided the crucial support necessary to begin rebuilding homes and business in this battered region.

National Volunteer Week promotes these selfless acts and raises awareness of the need for personal involvement within America's communities. For this reason I celebrate and support this institution.

Madam Speaker, as we observe National Volunteer Week, I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation for all of the efforts of our Nation's volunteers. Their work reflects the gracious and humanitarian character of the American Nation, and provides countless hours of service to valuable community organizations. I ask my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of H. Res. 293, in order to recognize the volunteers of America and National Volunteer Week.

HONORING SHULAMIT HOFFMANN

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, April 20, 2007*

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Shulamit Hoffman, a remarkable woman who has enriched my district as the founder and artistic director of Viva la Musica!, a 70-voice community choir. Since its inception in December 2001, this Bay Area based choir has performed a major work from the choral-orchestral repertoire each season, as well as traditional and multi-cultural choral selections. The choir has performed throughout the country and undertook its first European tour in December 2006 in illustrious venues in Vienna and Salzburg.

Ms. Hoffmann has held a litany of prestigious posts, most recently she was appointed as the conductor of Los Altos United Methodist Chancel Choir in 2002. In addition to singing regularly for Sunday services, LAUMC Choir has performed several major works in

concert and has undertaken two tours to the 2004 Kathaumixw in Canada, the 2005 Vermont International Choral Festival and, in 2006, an Alaskan singing cruise with Sir David Willcocks and Duaine Wolf.

As a music educator, Ms. Hoffmann has served as an adjunct faculty member of the College of San Mateo since 2002. She has been a member of the music faculties of the University of Notre Dame de Namur University in California, Idaho State University, Brigham Young University Extension in Idaho and University of Cape Town and University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. Several of her students are pursuing careers in music. Ms. Hoffmann holds a Master of Arts in Conducting and a Master of Music in Piano Performance. She has earned Licentiate Diplomas in Music from the University of South Africa and from the Royal Schools of Music in London.

She has served as president of branches of the Music Teachers' Association of California and of the National Federation of Music Clubs and she is a frequently invited competition judge and guest clinician.

Madam Speaker, the concerts Shulamit Hoffmann presents are generally sold out and appreciative audience members are enthralled with the musical quality of Viva la Musica! President and Mrs. John Oblak, of Notre Dame de Namur University, praised the excellence of the concerts when they were quoted as saying, "Viva performances exceed all expectations of choral music—they are creative, professional, stimulating and magical—and an absolute treat. We enjoy them personally and we are very proud to introduce friends of the University to this outstanding group."

Ms. Hoffmann's performances—as pianist and conductor—span a broad repertoire from Mozart to multi-cultural music, from the Renaissance to Prepared Piano. A particular interest of Ms. Hoffmann's is multi-media presentations of art, music and poetry. She is known for the skill, authority, imagination, daring, dazzle, and that dash of irresistible playfulness she brings to her musical endeavors. In her hands the conductor's baton becomes a magic wand, coaxing, coaching, and demanding the best of singers and orchestra alike.